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shellac or varnish put on evenly with a brush. The varnished floor requires to be dusted daily and to be rubbed occasionally with a rag wet with linseed oil and turpentine. While the var-

ishing with clean water. By washing woodwork in this manner the paint will not be injured and the hands will keep soft and white.

FOR washing Madras curtains without soap, bran water is said to be excellent. The proportions used are about a pailful of bran to a wash boiler full of water. Boil half an hour, stain part of it and use to wash the curtains, letting what remains continue to boil, then strain and use for rinsing water. Shake wrinkles out of curtains as much as possible when hanging up to dry. Beeswax and salt will make irons as smooth and clean as glass, provided that they are not too much rusted. Tie a lump of wax in a rag and keep it for the purpose, and rub first with the wax rag and then scour with a cloth sprinkled with salt.

TEA acts as a strong detergent, cleansing paint from all impurities and making it look as when new. It is a good plan to save spent tea leaves for this purpose, steeping them for half an hour and straining through a sieve. All varnished, painted surfaces are improved by it, but it should not be employed on unvarnished paints. The tea leaves are also useful for spreading on carpeted floors when sweeping; sprinkled around when in a slightly wet state they help to gather the dust and brighten the colors at the same time.

GREEN copperas is an article of great value in the home; a pound of it dissolved in a quart of water will destroy the foulest odors. Wherever there are offensive smells or gases, sprinkle it about, and in a short time the nuisance will vanish. Use it freely in such emergencies and it will purify the

atmosphere of the room.

SILVERWARE will tarnish in time if not continually brightened. The tarnishing may be prevented by the use of collodion dissolved in alcohol. Apply with a soft brush. The resultant coating is quite invisible, but protects the surface from contact with the dampness and gases of the atmosphere. Dipping the article in hot water will remove the film at any time.

OXALIC acid dissolved in water and applied with a brush will make unvarnished rattan furniture as presentable as when new. It is a poison and should be used carefully, but it is a great dirt eraser. This acid, or the juice of lemon, will effectually efface stains of ink, etc., from the hands. After using rinse thoroughly in clean water.

Ink spots on polished woodwork can be removed by the use of caustic soda or oxalic

acid. When the stain is on the surface of the polish it can be taken out by a little water slightly impregnated with the soda. When the stain has entered deeply into the wood diluted oxalic acid will erase it better than anything else. The wood will, in such a case, require to be refinished, as the polish will be gone after this treatment. Any woodwork that has been untouched by shellac or varnish, no matter how stained or dirty it may be, can be made beautifully fresh and clean by an application of oxalic acid dilution.

Clear boiling water will remove tea stains and many fruit stains.

Ripe tomatoes will remove ink and other stains from white cloth, also from the hands.

Blue ointment and kerosene mixed in equal proportions is an effective remedy for bugs.

Cool rain water and soda will efface machine grease from washable fabrics.

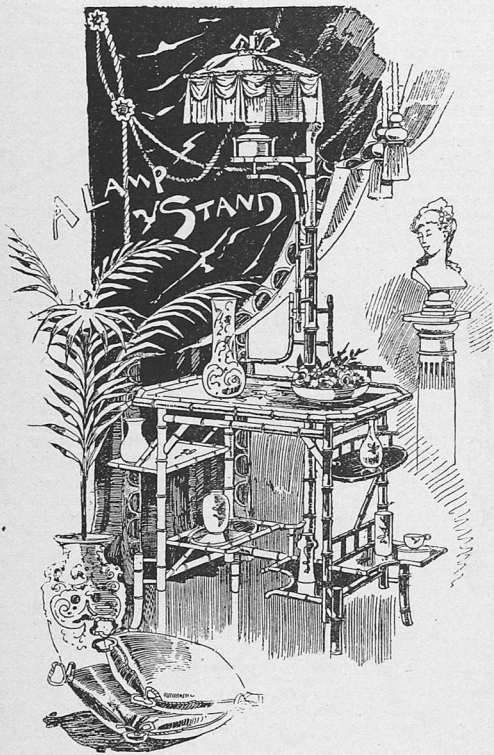
SPECIAL EFFECTS IN BAMBOO FURNITURE.

THE manufacturers of bamboo furniture have of late created some delightful specialties that have the combined merit of being at once objects of utility and artistic merit. The lampstand illustrated herewith sufficiently explains itself, and anything more artistic in the line of summer furnishings it would be impossible to conceive.

Another manufacturer has produced a bamboo portico or archway for interiors that possesses the merit of novelty and daintiness.

DECORATIVE NOTE.

A SIMPLY furnished, but very pretty dining room has the walls tinted an old-gold color. A dado of old-gold-colored matting is a yard deep, and is put in with gilt nails put very near together. The floor has a matting of peacock-blue ground in which is a cross bar of old-gold. The sideboard, chairs and tables are of yellow maple, and there are two corner cupboards with



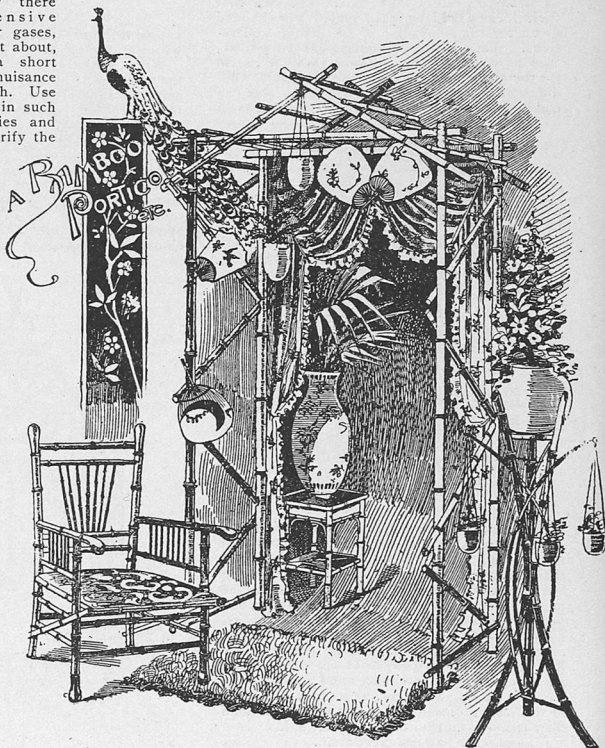
A Bamboo Lamp Stand.

nished floors require less care than the waxed, they are apt to wear out and look shabby in spots and are not so easily renewed. Wax suitable for floors is of the consistency of butter and is applied with a stiff brush or piece of flannel. It is well rubbed into the grain and polished with a coarse cloth or scrubbing brush. There are weighted brushes with long handles sold for the purpose and the wax can also be procured ready for use from dealers in paints and makers of inland flooring.

WHEN the color has been taken out of silks by fruit stains ammonia will generally restore the color. Should the stain be from an acid, give an after application of chloroform, which will in nearly every instance prove effective.

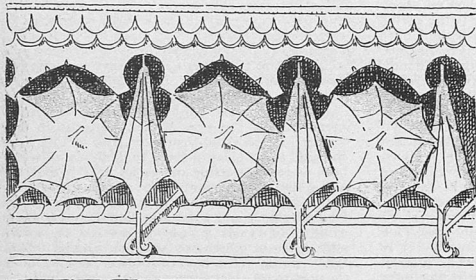
To brighten the colors in carpet wipe with warm water in which a few drops of ammonia have been poured. It is also excellent for other household purposes, such as taking out grease spots, using a weak solution; afterwards laying a piece of white paper over the spot and ironing with a hot iron. Use it for cleaning windows—one or two tablespoonfuls added to the water will be more effective than soap. Ammonia is also useful for brightening silver ornaments and mountings; saturate a woolen cloth and apply.

WHEN the painted woodwork in the home, particularly around the handles of doors, becomes dirty and badly stained, it is often well nigh impossible to remove the marks with cold water without the use of soap. When this is the case use two tablespoonfuls of pulverized borax to a pail of hot water and wash the paint with it. When soap must be resorted to, rub the soap on the cloth and over the soap sprinkle dry borax, then rub the spots well,



A Bamboo Portico on a Piazza.

plate-glass doors, through which the pretty china is visible. The wooden mantel-piece has a drapery of peacock-blue felt in which is embroidered a running pattern of yellow daisies. The window curtains are of the same material, with frieze band embroidered in the same pattern. These curtains are suspended from yellow maple



Frieze for a Vestibule. By Emil Cauré.

poles, and hang down on either side of the window. The inner or sash curtains, as they are called (as they lie directly upon the sash), are of old-gold colored pongee and are trimmed with a little ball fringe of old-gold and peacock blue. The maple chairs have upholstered backs and seats in peacock-blue corduroy. Anything fresher or brighter than this room, with its simple furniture and inexpensive decorations, cannot be imagined.



Important Notice. Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions on interior decoration.

As our space is necessarily limited, and our correspondence large, inquirers will please exercise patience should we not be able to publish replies in the first issue following receipt of letter.

Correspondents are earnestly requested to observe the following rules when writing to us.

1. Write only on one side of the paper.
2. Send, if possible, copies of the architect's plans of the various floors to be decorated. If it is not possible to do this, then send a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing the relation of the various apartments to each other, the position of the windows and doors, and mark outside the plan the north and south aspects of the house.
3. Always mention the kind of woodwork used in the finish of the various apartments. If the woodwork is stained or painted, mention the color of the stain or paint used thereon. Be particular to state whether the floors are of plain wood or laid in parquetry.
4. Advise in all cases if the apartment has a plaster or wood cornice between wall and ceiling.
5. State about how much money is to be expended in the decoration of each or all of the apartments, as a guide in deciding the particular treatment of same.
6. Inclose three two-cent stamps to pay postage on samples of draperies, wall papers, etc.

A COUCH FOR A COLLEGE ROOM.

CHURCH MEADOW, N. C., March 15, 1895.
The Editor, DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

DEAR SIR: In decorating my college room I would like you to give me some suggestions concerning a couch I want to have made. It is to be the size of a single bed. Would it be too much to ask you to send me a few samples of suitable material for covering it? I see you speak of flax velour; I would like very much to have some samples of that, and also some samples suitable for pillows, in silk goods.

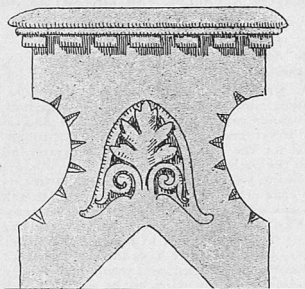
You will oblige me greatly if you can tell me of any place in New York City where a young man can study interior decoration, and also designing. I am a great lover of art, and wish to take that as my life-work.

Yours very truly,

HENRY DROUTHMEYER.

ANSWER.

In your letter regarding the decoration of a couch you mentioned nothing about the color of your room, upon which largely depends the color for the divan. We send you samples of flax



Bench in Carved Wood. By Emil Cauré.

velour in green, and some in red, either color would be suitable for almost any room. The green is \$2.25 per yard, and is 50 in. wide. The salmon red is \$2.50 per yard, and is 50 in. wide. There is such a variety of silks for pillows, and the goods are so accessible everywhere that it is unnecessary for us to send you samples. Get some pretty bright colors, the individual colors won't matter so long as they are well diversified.

We would advise you, regarding learning interior decoration and designing, to write to some first-class firm, stating your case, and offering your services free for, say, six months, in order that you might get a start. It is impossible for one to draw a salary when knowing nothing of the business.

A SCHEME FOR DECORATING A HOUSE IN IOWA.

FORT DODGE, Iowa, March 12, 1895.

Editor DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

DEAR SIR: I am completing a new house, and would like your views as to its decoration, color scheme, etc. The first floor of the house is planned as follows: The building faces the north and has in front a central hall finished in oak, 13 ft. x 18 ft., this communicates with the dining room in the west and the library on the east by means of sliding doors, the openings being 6 ft. in width. The dining room is finished in oak and is 14 ft. x 18 ft. The library is in mahogany and is 18 ft. x 16 ft. Behind the dining room on the southwest is the kitchen, and in a line with the library on the southeast is the parlor, which is finished in cherry, and is 16 ft. x 17 ft. I may say that the hall has a wood panel ceiling, and both hall and dining room have a wainscoting 4 ft. in height. The library book-cases rise to the ceiling on one side. Would you recommend walls to be painted or papered. I

have a good many oil paintings and wish to show them to advantage. I do not want to go into anything elaborate or expensive, but to furnish in good taste. HENRY GOSHORN.

ANSWER.

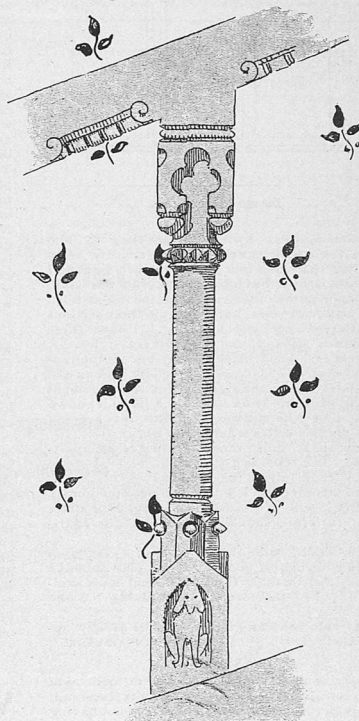
The following suggestions for decorating and furnishing your house, will, if carried out, give very pretty effects at a very moderate expense. You mention nothing about the rooms having a cornice, but we will suppose each room is supplied with that decorative appendage. You also mention nothing about the finishing of the floors, but we will suppose hardwood floors in the hall and dining room. We would advise you to use no wall papers at all, but paint the walls instead, and we send you herewith samples of the color to be used in each apartment.

Tint the walls of the hall in a light brownish yellow, the ceiling to be in the same tone, but somewhat lighter. The cornice should be in the same color as the wall. The draperies at the doors leading into the dining room and library should be in a salmon velour, of which a sample is sent you. It is fifty inches wide, and costs \$2.50 per yard. Use for carpet an Oriental rug with dull salmon tints predominating. These rugs are at present selling for less than ever before.

The walls of the dining room should be tinted in a deep rose, of which color we also send sample. The ceiling should be tinted in a light cream and the cornice is not quite so light a tone. Use the rose velour, of which a sample is sent you, for draperies. It is fifty inches wide, and costs \$2.25 per yard. Use for carpet an Oriental rug with the prevailing color in dull rose.

Tint the walls of the library a sage green, similar to the color sample sent. The corner of the cornice should be in the same color, but the ceiling in a much lighter tint. Use for draperies the green tapestry, of which a sample is sent you. It is fifty inches wide, and costs \$3.50 per yard. For the library carpet use a dark sage velvet, of the same color as the sample of plush inclosed.

Tint the wall of the parlor a light yellow, of which a sample is sent you. Let the cornice be in the same tint, the ceiling to be much lighter.



Design for Stair-railing in Carved Wood. By Emil Cauré.